

Claims:

1. A method for controlling the position of a mandrel (10) that is mounted in a hydraulic extrusion apparatus comprising a cylinder and a piston that form a piercing cylinder (8), of an extrusion press for producing pipes (2) that are extruded from billets (4) that are loaded into a holder (5) mounted upstream from the extrusion die (3) and pierced by means of the mandrel (10), characterized in that

the piercing cylinder (8) is directly driven by pumps (11) that are adjusted to a defined pumping volume as a function of the extrusion speed and that a further pumping volume is added to the previously computed pump conveying volume, a control valve (16) acting upon the front ring compartment (12) of the piercing cylinder (8) being connected to a sump (17) for the purpose of controlling the position of the mandrel (10).

2. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the outlet pressure of the piercing cylinder (8) is adjusted to a defined pressure.

3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the pressure levels in both sides of the piercing cylinder (8) are monitored.